

News ReleaseNational Labor Relations Board Office of the General Counsel

September 23, 2010

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Deputy General Counsel John E. Higgins, Jr. to retire

Former NLRB Board Member and General Counsel had long and varied career at the agency; was named to posts by three presidents

NLRB Deputy General Counsel John E. Higgins has announced that he will retire from the agency after 46 years of service, including two stints as a Board member and two as Acting General Counsel.

"John Higgins has served the agency so well in so many different capacities that it is difficult to imagine this place without him," said Acting General Counsel Lafe Solomon. "For nearly half a century, he has been an ardent advocate for the equitable enforcement of our labor laws. In so doing, he has helped resolve cases for countless employees, unions and employers. In addition, he has long been the unofficial agency historian. He will be greatly missed."

A native of Melrose, Mass., Mr. Higgins graduated from Boston College with a BA in English, and received his J.D. from Boston University Law School in 1964. Upon graduating, he joined the NLRB as a Field Attorney in Memphis, Tennessee. He was promoted to supervisory attorney four years later. In 1969, he received a Master's degree in collective bargaining from Cornell University.

In 1969, Mr. Higgins transferred to the agency's Washington D.C. headquarters, where he joined the Division of Advice, and quickly rose through the ranks. In 1976, he was promoted to Deputy General Counsel and held that position until 1988, when he was nominated by President Reagan to be a Member of the Board.

He served as a Board Member for more than a year under a recess appointment. In 1996, Mr. Higgins was again recess appointed to the Board by President Clinton. In 2001 he was appointed Acting General Counsel by President George W. Bush. He was also

Acting General Counsel in 2005. Mr. Higgins also served as Solicitor of the Board and as Inspector General.

Mr. Higgins is also active in the Labor and Employment Section of the American Bar Association, the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, and the Association of Labor Relation Agencies. He was editor of the 5th Edition of the Developing Labor Law text and is currently editor in chief of the upcoming 6th Edition. He is also editor of the Outline of Law and Procedure in Representation Cases.

Mr. Higgins, 70, has been an Adjunct Lecturer at Catholic University School of Law for 30 years. He teaches two courses, and will be increasing that teaching load in his retirement.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the authority to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have a union as their collective bargaining representative. The Agency also acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions, as well as cases arising from the United States Postal Service.

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